

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's having conducted a telephone interview with the undersigned counsel for Applicants on February 5, 2003, regarding the allowability of the claims as proposed to be amended herein.

Claims 1-21 and 24-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21 and 24-25 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-21 and 24-25 as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner states that Applicant has failed to disclose how one of ordinary skill would make a liquid crystal cell which could be used as a moisture barrier structure with the recited rates. As the specification clearly states, it is the polarizer used in the liquid crystal display stack, not the liquid crystal cell, that provides the gas and moisture barrier to the liquid crystal material. In addition, the specification states the liquid crystal display structure provides a moisture vapor transmission rate of less than about 4.6 gm/m²/day and an oxygen transmission rate of less than about 0.005 ml/m²/day. See specification page 9, paragraph 49. However, independent claims 1, 19, 21, and 24 have been amended herein to clarify which layer provides the gas and moisture barrier properties to the liquid crystal display structure. Accordingly, claims 1-21 and 24-25 satisfy 35 USC § 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner has maintained his rejection of claims 5 and 6 as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. As previously stated, a person of ordinary skill in the art understands that a protective coating, such as cellulose triacetate, provides a polarizer with protection, e.g., from moisture and/or heat,

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and an adhesive layer, such as a pressure sensitive adhesive, may be used to attach a polarizer to a liquid crystal display cell. A thin coating of an adhesive layer will not inherently protect the underlying polarizer. As the specification states, the prior art H-type polarizers, which included adhesive layers, needed protective coatings to prevent degradation of the polarizer in a normal working environment. Therefore, one skilled in the art could make a liquid crystal display structure, which included an adhesive layer, with an intrinsic polarizer lacking a protective coating thereon.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-21 and 24-25 as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner states the additional language added to the claims is new matter as the applicant did not describe the liquid crystal cell as the barrier structure. As previously stated, the specification states it is the polarizer used in the liquid crystal display stack, not the liquid crystal cell, that provides the gas and moisture barrier to the liquid crystal material. Independent claims 1, 19, 21, and 24 have been amended herein to clarify which layer provides the gas and moisture barrier properties to the liquid crystal display structure. Accordingly, claims 1-21 and 24-25 satisfy 35 USC § 112, first paragraph.

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For the reasons stated above, claims 1-21 and 24-25 satisfy 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. Applicants submit that claims 1-21 and 24-25 are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-1721.

Respectfully submitted,



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